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unpublished documents from the British and French foreign offices. — George Routledge & Sons will publish shortly 'The Handy Reference Atlas of the World,' by John Bartholomew, containing 100 maps and plans, a complete index, and geographical statistics. — D. C. Heath & Co. have ready a collection of twenty-five models and twenty-five photographs by N. S. Shaler, William M. Davis, and T. W. Harris, instructors in geology in Harvard College, designed to show the principal features in the structure of the superficial aspects of the earth's crust, with extensive text descriptive of each figure, prepared for the use of beginners in geology. This collection is now in use in the laboratory of Harvard College, by the Boston School of Natural History, and a dozen other schools of various grades. Messrs. Heath & Co. will also publish very soon an 'Illustrated Primer,' by Sarah Fuller, principal of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf, Boston. The aim of this little book is to familiarize the deaf children with the printed forms of words and sentences which they have learned to speak. To associate these with the objects, there are introduced many simple cuts of common objects with which the pupils are acquainted. — Harper & Brothers have just issued a handsomely illustrated work, entitled 'The Capitals of Spanish America,' by W. E. Curtis, in which all the great cities in the central and southern parts of this Western continent are described at length, and their ancient history retold. — 'The Injurious Influences of City Life' is the subject of a brief but striking paper, by Walter B. Platt, M.D., to appear in the August *Popular Science Monthly*. The limitation of muscular movements, the noise, and the pavements in a city, are the principal sources of the effects to which he refers. — Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, London, have issued two new volumes of the 'Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of the "Challenger,"' — Vol. XXIV., 'Zoölogy (2 parts, text and plates), Report on the Crustacea Macrura'; Vol. XXV., 'Zoölogy, Report on the Tetractinellida.' — Roberts Brothers have just ready 'Harvard Vespers,' a collection of the sermons preached to the students by Phillips Brooks, E. E. Hale, A. P. Peabody, and Dr. Gordon, of the Old South, Boston. — D. C. Heath & Co. will publish shortly some selected poems from Lamartine's 'Premières et Nouvelles Méditations.' They will be edited, with biographical sketch and notes, by George O. Curme, professor of German and French, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Io. — The University Publishing Company will hereafter publish Prof. A. Knoblauch's works on 'German Simplified' and 'Spanish Simplified.' These works, heretofore published by the author, have had a fair sale, which it is hoped will be extended by the transfer to an enterprising firm like the University Publishing Company. — Funk & Wagnalls have just ready 'Nobody Knows,' by A. Nobody, which deals with what the author calls 'social wrongs.' — Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. announce 'Political Essays,' by James Russell Lowell, which will doubtless attract remarkable attention. Most of the essays date back to the time of the war and the reconstruction which followed. The closing paper is his New York address in April last, on 'The Place of the Independent in Politics.' — Harper & Bros. have issued 'The Names and Portraits of Birds which interest Gunners,' containing descriptions of birds generally shot in the eastern portion of the United States, and giving the different names by which they are commonly known in other parts of the country.

— At a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, July 2, Prof. S. P. Langley was elected a corresponding member.

— In June, 1887, a committee of the Howard Association invited the co-operation of their friends and the public to enable them to issue, and distribute at home and abroad, certain works which their secretary, Mr. Tallack, had prepared, embodying important facts, figures, and observations collected by the association during the past twenty years, in reference to prison discipline and the best methods of the treatment and prevention of crime, together with the questions of intemperance and capital punishment. The works alluded to are now nearly ready for the press, and are three in number. It is hoped that they may each be issued during the year 1888. The contents of two of these books will include the following subjects: — 'Prison Discipline, and the Best Modes of the Treatment and Prevention of Crime,' including chapters on the existing British, continental, and American systems of prison and penal

discipline; separation and association in jails; prison visitation; penal labor; prison officers; the police; imprisonment for long terms and for life; the aid of discharged prisoners; habitual offenders; probation and conditional liberation; juvenile delinquency; reformatory and industrial schools; pauper children; sentences; various modes of punishment and prevention, etc.; and 'The Death-Penalty at Home and Abroad,' including chapters on the limits and operation of deterrence and penalty; British and foreign official statistics of murder and its punishment; judicial mistakes; insanity and homicide; the law of murder; American homicide; the prerogative of pardon; modes of execution; the abolition of capital punishment, regular and irregular; perverted clemency; substitutes for the infliction of death; alternative dangers; the opinions, on this question, of John Stuart Mill, Justice Sir Fitzjames Stephen, Lord Bramwell, Prince Bismarck, Earl Russell, Right Hon. Joseph Henley, M.P., Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., King Oscar I., and others; the Bible and capital punishment, etc. The above appeal has been widely issued in the form of a circular. It has hitherto only elicited £62 4s., and this sum has been exclusively contributed by eleven friends who were previously subscribers to the association, and familiar with its services. It is obvious that much more effectual help is necessary to enable the committee to carry out their wishes.

— Germany is taking an interest in the exploration of the Antarctic regions. An expedition is being organized by Dr. Neumayer of the Hamburg Observatory.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

##### Onondaga White-Dog Feast.

DANIEL LA FORT testified before the legislative committee this month that the Onondagas burned no white dog this year, because the Indian breed had run out. He told me soon after the feast, which occurred as usual, minus the dog, that it was a sacred breed, and no others could be used; and I think none was burned last year. Of course, this is partially an excuse for letting the custom die out, as Indian dogs could be procured from other Iroquois if so desired. The feast has fallen into decay, though its observance in some ways will continue a while longer. The presumption is, that some intelligent Indians are assisting in its gradual disuse. This decay has been quite marked in this generation. Forty years ago, two dogs were burned; twenty years ago, but one, but this was on a blazing pile outside the council-house. Five years ago they opened the top of the council-house stove, and dumped the dead victim into that. Now there is no dog at all.

The last feast attracted some antiquarians from a distance, who were much disappointed at the omission, — Hamlet, with Hamlet left out, — but there was no remedy. The dog had had its day.

It is customary to call this an ancient feast, and to suppose it identical with the white-dog feast of the Senecas, which it much resembles. I have before now pointed out the differences, one of the principal of which is the time at which the dog is killed. With the Senecas this was at the beginning of the principal feast-day, and it remained hung up until the fifth, when it was taken down and burned. Among the Onondagas the killing and burning were always on the same day. The Onondagas had such a sacrifice but once a year; the Senecas, on any important occasion, sacrificing several dogs during Sullivan's invasion in 1779. With them the custom seems but little over a century old, the Onondagas adopting it later, while the other nations may not have had it at all. At least, it has been described only in these two, and that but at a late day. The Onondagas simply added a striking rite to their earlier dream-feast, which had the periodical observance of the later dog-feast. That they had it from the Senecas seems reasonable; but whence the latter obtained it is not so clear. It may prove a late outgrowth of earlier customs, dog's-flesh having been always highly esteemed by the Indians. Unknown, apparently, to the French missionaries, it is already among the things that have been. In a very short time the other rites of the feast will disappear, as feasts themselves have been dropped. I recently had the good fortune to be present at the Onondaga planting-feast, which has never been described.

W. M. BEAUCHAMP.

Baldwinsville, July 12.